



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Nigeria

Poultry and Products

Nigerian Customs Destroy Imported Frozen Poultry 2003

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Report Highlights:

Several container loads of imported frozen poultry were recently seized and publicly destroyed by officials of the Nigerian Government. In August 2002, the GON implemented an import ban on frozen poultry despite a supply deficit of approximately 25,000 MT annually.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Lagos [NI1], NI

Executive Summary

According to several daily newspapers, the Nigerian government seized and publicly destroyed 49 container loads of imported frozen chicken valued at approximately 4,000,000 dollars in late January 2003. The exercise, which was ordered by President Obasanjo was jointly supervised by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, Nigerian Customs Service and the Nigerian Plant and Quarantine Services. A source at the Nigerian Custom's Service reported to the FAS Office that the shipments were seized and destroyed because of the ban. According to the press, the shipments were not from the United States. This is not the first seizure of poultry since the ban as the press reported the destruction of a smaller shipment in November 2002.

Nigeria is reviving its poultry sector and therefore banned poultry imports in August 2002 (see NI2022). Current poultry production does not meet demand, therefore, the shortage has lead to rising prices and continued smuggling of poultry products. Prior to the import ban, virtually all imported frozen poultry entered Nigeria illegally and evaded the 75 percent duty payment. Industry sources estimate Nigeria's undocumented imports of frozen poultry at approximately 25,000 tons per annum representing about 20 percent of national consumption requirement.